reported that their data reporting system does not generate the information in the manner asked for. However, the number of beneficiaries and the amount written off by Andaman and Nicobar State Cooperative Bank under the Agricultural and Rural Debt Relief (ARDR) scheme, 1990 in the two districts of Andaman and Nicobar are indicated below:

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of district	*No. of beneficiaries*	*Amount*
Andaman district	1274	19.98
Nicobar district	6	0.16
Total	1280	20.14

Passenger-Cum-Cargo ships for Andaman and Nicobar Administration

326. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT to be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had placed order for building of three passenger cum cargo ships on Poland Shipyard for Andaman and Nicobar Administration;

(b) if so, whether one such ship delivered recently has got manufacturing defects;

(c) if so, the action taken by the Government in the matter;

(d) whether any inspection has been conducted during the manufacturing stage of other ships; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c). All new vessels constructed experience some teething problems which are usually resolved during the guarantee period of one year. The defects/deficiencies noticed on the first passenger cum cargo vessel M.V. Nicobar have been reported to the Shipyard and these are being rectified continually. The entire cost involved in such rectification of defects noticed during the guarantee period of one year of the vessel will be met by the Shipyard.

(d) & (e). The Shipping Corporation of India Ltd., who are supervising the construction of these three ships, has maintained a team of four engineers at the Shipyard throughout the period of construction of the vessels, and their job is to daily inspect, monitor and test the machinery and equipment as they are being installed and commissioned. The defects observed on the first vessel are in the normal course passed on to these engineers who then take care that these defects/deficiencies are not being repeated on the remaining vessels.

Persons arrested for evasion of Excise Duty in Bombay

327. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Will the Minister of FINANCE to be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Bank Collectorate, Bombay have arrested a number of persons in connection with evasion of excise duty as reported in the Economic Times of September 26,1991; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 12 persons have been arrested since July, 1991 in cases of evasion of Central Excise duty made put in the jurisdiction of Collector of Central Excise, Bombay-II against seven manufacturers. Five of these manufacturers are textile processors who were prima facie found to be manipulating Central Excise gate passes, with a view to show lesser clearances of excisable goods and thus evade Central Excise duty. Ten persons have been arrested in these cases. In another case, a manufacturer was found to issuing forged excise gate passes to facilitate availing of ineligible Modvat credit. In the remaining one case a manufacturer was suppressing actual production of excisable goods and was also availing ineligible Modvat Credit. One person was arrested in each of these cases. Total duty evasion detected in these cases is estimated at Rs 47.3 lakhs.

Public Sector Banks in Purnea, Araria and Kishanganj Areas

328. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Will the Minister of FINANCE to be pleased to state:

(a) the names of public sector banks serving the districts of Purnea, Araria and Kishanganj, block-wise along with the location of their branches;

(b) the average population served by a bank branch in these districts, district-wise and block-wise,

(c) the location of new bank branches approved for establishment during 1991-92, block-wise, in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The names of Public Sector Banks in the Districts of Purnea, Araria and Kishanganj alongwith the location of their branches are given in the attached statement. Particulars of block-wise number of branches are not available with RBI.

(b) The information regarding average population per bank office (APPBO) in these districts is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) The growth of new bank branches under the extant Licensing Policy will depend on a well established need, business potential and financial viability of the proposed branches. Moreover, the opening of branches under the extent licensing policy is a continuous process which will be governed by licenses issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in this regard. Hence, at this stage it is not possible to project the number of branches of banks that will be opened during 1991-92, block-wise, in these Districts.